

momentous occasion for all of us on eastern Long Island. This is the sixth time in 19 years, Mr. Speaker, that our beloved Killer Bees of Bridgehampton High School are the New York State Class D boys varsity basketball champions.

There is tremendous pride throughout eastern Long Island as we listened over eastern Long Island radio WLNG as the Killer Bees, led by their coach Carl Johnson, went on to victory. It is the same Carl Johnson, by the way, as coach but formerly as a player who himself participated in three State titles from 1979 until 1980 as a player in Bridgehampton. The Killer Bees earned the 1996 title by defeating West Canada Valley 51-37 last Saturday evening March 16 at the Glens Falls Civic Center in Glens Falls, NY.

The six State championships are the most ever by a New York school, and coach Johnson is the only person in State history, Mr. Speaker, to win a scholastic basketball title as both a player and a coach. While all class D schools have small enrollments, Mr. Speaker, with just 43 students, Bridgehampton High School is the smallest on Long Island and the third smallest in the State of New York. But they well may be the mightiest. But as coach Johnson proved, the only true measure is that of his players' heart and determination.

Unlike larger schools with a larger pool of eager young athletes, to build his championship 15-player squad, coach Johnson drew from a talented pool of just 18 young men at Bridgehampton High School. The Killer Bees were led by seniors Terrell Hopson, Nick Thomas and Nathaniel Dent and juniors Fred Welch and Javed Khan. Among Bridgehampton's top underclassmen is sophomore Maurice Manning who is the team's top scorer and the most valuable player in the State Class D tournament.

Other sophomores include Charles Furman, William Walker, Louis Myrick, Matthew White, and Marcos Harding. Freshman players are Ronald White, Kareem Coffey, Daniel Muller and Jemille Charlton. Carl Johnson's top assistant coach is Bobby Hopson, and Bridgehampton's athletic director is Mary Anne Jules.

Mr. Speaker, Bridgehampton finished the season with a 20-4 record. Besides the New York State title, the Killer Bees also earned the Suffolk County Class C-D championship. They went on to defeat Valhalla in Westchester County by 67-55 in the regional finals and then Bridgehampton went on to defeat Hermon-DeKalb 69-23 in the State semifinals. The top high school Class D boys basketball team in New York, our own Bridgehampton High School, was supported all season by a legion of truly loyal fans, just about the best basketball fans in the State.

According to one news report, a contingent of 50 hometown boosters followed their team for the 6-hour journey 350 miles from Long Island's South

fork to Glens Falls, home of this House's chairman of the House Committee on Rules, JERRY SOLOMON. At Glens Falls New York State's high school basketball tournament was held last Saturday evening. We got to listen over the radio as Bridgehampton was victorious.

When the coaches and players returned home, Mr. Speaker, hundreds of their neighbors were waiting at the local high school to cheer their conquering heroes, and thousands, as I said, followed the action on local radio station WLNG. With multiple championships garnered on the basketball hardwood with only minimal resources, Bridgehampton High School's success has caught the attention of renowned academics John Katzenbach and Douglas Smith who profiled the Killer Bees in their 1992 book, the *Wisdom of Teams*, published by Harvard Business School Press.

Congratulations to all the Killer Bees. May you bring back many more State titles to our neighbors here on Eastern Long Island and throughout Suffolk County.

[From the *Newsday*, Long Island March 18, 1996]

HAIL, BEES!

(By Samson Mulugeta and Jordan Rau)

Marian Ashman had seen them all. For 63 years, she'd followed the Bridgehampton Killer Bees. She'd seen the best players on five championship teams. But on Saturday night after traveling 350 miles to upstate Glens Falls, she saw her team win the state championship for the first time.

As the buzzer sounded with the score of 51-37, Ashman jumped from her seat screaming, her left arm shooting into the air.

"When I think about the whole New York state, I start thinking about it and I start crying," said Ashman, 71, as she watched the players pile off the bus yesterday for a victory celebration at the high school.

The team, which captured its record sixth state Class D title, arrived in the East End village escorted by a honking procession of fire trucks and cars.

As they turned into the high school parking lot, team members were greeted by hundreds of cheering fans, who had been waiting most of the afternoon for their arrival.

Senior Nick Thomas, the first off the bus, held the plaque over his head, Stanley Cup-style. As the players stepped off the bus they were engulfed by the chanting crowd and were hugged by family and friends.

Thomas said the team wasn't sure what would await them. "We didn't really know it was going to happen," he said at a reception in the school, where the community feasted on chicken, macaroni salad, cakes and soft drinks. "Being that our fans are who they are, we knew they would show some kind of appreciation. It's a great feeling to experience."

Younger fans played pickup games in the school gym while waiting for the champions to arrive. Some said they looked forward to having their chance to play for the school.

"This is so exciting, they hadn't done it in 10 years," said Chris Ranum, a 12-year-old on the junior high basketball team. "I just want to play on the team, we can take it every year up to the state championship."

The Killer Bees captured the championship by defeating West Canada Valley of Newport, 51-37, to win the title for schools with enrollments of less than 200. Bridgehampton, the

third smallest high school in the state, has an enrollment of 43, and 15 of the 18 boys in the school are on the team.

It was the team's first trip to the state tournament since 1991. The team won three straight state titles from 1978 to 1980, and earned its previous state championship in 1986.

Despite its status as the Little School That Could—or maybe because of its small size—the Killer Bees had devoted fans. Forty-nine of them boarded a bus in the village Saturday morning for the six-hour trip upstate.

Paul Fishburne, 46, said he had to be there to cheer on the boys.

"You've got to be crazy to go on this trip but it's worth it," he said.

For Lamont Avery, who turned 43 Saturday, it was a birthday trip.

"I haven't been off Long Island for two years," he said.

For Curtis Ellis, the Bridgehampton basketball tradition is a family affair. Ellis played on championship teams in the early 1970s. Now his son, Terrell Hopson, is repeating the cycle.

"From generation to generation, it goes on," said Ellis, 42. "You could say the Bridgehampton Child Care Center is our farm system. Every kid who goes there starts playing as soon as they can walk and they grow up listening about the legends."

The Killer Bees perform so consistently well with minimal resources that management gurus John Katzenbach and Douglas Smith profiled them in their 1992 book, *The Wisdom of Teams*, published by Harvard Business School Press.

"Here's a team whose members very seldom reach 6 feet and for the most part has no superstar players," said Henry Letcher, a teacher at Bridgehampton High School who helped organize the bus trip.

"But they defy expectations just because they play unselfishly," Letcher said. "They work so hard and are so focused on their goals."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. EHLERS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. EHLERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

UNEMPLOYMENT SHOULD BE LOWER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. DUNCAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, during the last 3 years, more than 1½ million people have lost their jobs due to major corporate downsizing, 1½ million. This was before AT&T announced a reduction of 40,000 jobs, and Ford Motor Co., 6,000 jobs, and on and on. Nor does it count many thousands of employees who have lost their jobs in very small businesses which have closed due to